

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing network configuration, comprising;

5 an access point configured to receive and store a request to retrieve information from a mobile system associated with the access point;

a mobile system having a wireless network adapter configured to poll the access point to discover the stored request for information on the access point;

10 wherein the mobile system is configured to respond to discovery of the stored request by retrieving the requested information from nonvolatile storage of the mobile system and transmitting the requested information via the wireless network adapter.

15 2. The network of claim 1, wherein the access point is configured to recognize the request as a packet containing a media access control (MAC) address repeated multiple times and an appended control field.

20 3. The network of claim 1, wherein the mobile system is further configured, when in a powered down state, to periodically wake up the wireless network adapter to poll the access point for pending requests.

4. The network of claim 1, wherein the access point is configured to store the pending request in a table having an entry for each mobile system associated with the access point.

25 5. The network of claim 4, wherein the access point is configured to allocate an entry in the table when a mobile system associates with the access point.

30 6. The network of claim 5, wherein the access point is further configured to store asset information of the mobile client in the table.

7. A computer program product for remotely retrieving information from a powered-down mobile data processing system, the program product comprising processor executable instructions stored on computer readable media, comprising:

5 computer code means for storing a server request for asset information from the powered-down mobile system on an access point associated with the powered-down mobile system;

10 computer code means for querying the access point responsive to subsequently powering the wireless network adapter of the mobile system; and

computer code means, responsive to detecting the stored request for asset information, for retrieving the asset information and forwarding the retrieved information to the access point.

15 8. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the code means for retrieving the asset information comprises code means for accessing the asset information from nonvolatile storage on the mobile system while the network adapter is powered on.

20 9. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the code means for querying the access point comprise code means for periodically waking the wireless network adapter to poll the access point.

25 10. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein code means for storing the server request comprises computer code means for storing the request in a table on the access point having an entry for each mobile system associated with the access point.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein each table entry contains a MAC address of the corresponding wireless network adapter.

12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the mobile system stores its asset information in the table and further comprising code means, responsive to a subsequent request for the mobile system's asset information, to service using the access point.

5 13. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the server request includes the MAC address of the wireless adapter on the mobile system of interest to the server repeated sixteen times and a control field appended thereto.

10 14. A service for enabling a server to remotely access data from a powered down mobile data processing system, comprising:

enabling the server to transmit a request to retrieve information from a mobile system;

15 enabling an access point associated with the mobile system to recognize the request and to store information indicative of the request on the access point if the request is addressed to a mobile system associated with the access point;

enabling the mobile client to query the access point for a pending request during a subsequent communication with the access point;

20 enabling a wireless network adapter of the mobile client, responsive to detecting the stored request for information from the server, to retrieve the requested information and to transmit the requested information to the server through the access point.

25 15. The service of claim 14, wherein enabling the server to transmit a request includes enabling the server to transmit a packet containing a media access control address of the wireless network adapter repeated multiple times and a control field appended thereto.

30 16. The service of claim 15, wherein enabling the access point to store information indicative of the request comprises enabling the access point to store information indicative of the request in a table having an entry corresponding to each mobile client associated with the access point,

wherein each entry in the request contains the MAC address of the corresponding mobile system's wireless network adapter.

5 17. The service of claim 16, wherein each entry in the table is further enabled to store the corresponding mobile system's MIF asset information.

18. The service of claim 17, wherein the server request is a request for the mobile client's asset information and wherein the access point services the request itself if the table contains a valid copy of the mobile client's asset information.

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19. The service of claim 14, wherein enabling the mobile client to retrieve the information includes enabling the wireless adapter to retrieve data from nonvolatile storage directly connected to the wireless network adapter via a system management bus.

15 20. The service of claim 14, wherein enabling the mobile client to query the access point comprises periodically waking the wireless network adapter to poll the access point.

21. The service of claim 14, wherein enabling the mobile client to query the access point, comprises enabling the client to query the access point during a subsequent mobile client power
20 on event causing the mobile client to associate with the access point.

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